receiving and decoding supplementary service information for said supplementary communications service being requested; and

selecting which of said one or more servers will execute said communications services.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, Claims 1-12 are pending. Claims 1, 5, and 9 have been amended to more particularly point out Applicant's invention.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Taylor et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,400,587 ("Taylor") in view of Brivet et al., U.S Patent No. 6,011,842 ("Brivet"). Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Taylor or Brivet, either singly or in combination. In particular, one aspect of the present invention is intercepting supplementary service requests at an intervening server and determining if the original destination server or servers should execute the supplementary service request. If not, the request is redirected for execution to another server. Thus, claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite "wherein at least one of said one or more servers comprises an intervening server and is adapted to intercept a supplementary communications service request to determine whether execution of said supplementary communications service request is carried out by a server other than an original requested server;" and claim 9 has been amended to recite "intercepting said supplementary communications service requests at an intervening server before execution by a destination server."

In contrast, Taylor merely relates to rerouting a call from one trunk to another trunk or ACD which then treat the call normally. Brivet is relied on for teaching supplemental services. Neither reference, however, relates to intercepting supplemental service requests at an *intervening server* before execution by a destination server, as generally recited in the claims at issue. Indeed, neither Taylor nor Brivet contain a hint that such interception and carrying out of supplementary

services by an other-than-original server is even desirable. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

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MARKED UP CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A communications network resource usage control system, comprising:

one or more servers in the communications network adapted to execute supplementary communications service requests;

a monitoring unit connected to each of said one or more servers to receive and decode supplementary service information for the supplementary communications service being requested; and

a control program responsive to said monitor to select which of said one or more servers will execute said communications services;

wherein at least one of said one or more servers comprises an intervening server and is adapted to intercept a supplementary communications service request to determine whether execution of said supplementary communications service request is carried out by a server other than an original requested server.

5. (Twice Amended) A communications network resource usage optimization system in an interconnected network system, comprising:

one or more servers in the interconnected network system adapted to execute supplementary communications service requests;

a monitoring unit connected to each of said one or more servers to receive and decode supplementary service information for the supplementary communications services being requested; and

a control program responsive to said monitor decoding supplementary service information adapted to select which of said one or more servers will execute said communications services, said control program further enabling said optimization system only under predetermined conditions;

wherein at least one of said one or more servers comprises an intervening server and is adapted to intercept a supplementary communications service request to determine whether execution of said supplementary communications service request is carried out by a server other than an original requested server.

9. (Twice Amended) A method for controlling communications network resource usage in a communications network, comprising:

enabling supplementary communications service requests;

intercepting said supplementary communications service requests at an intervening server before execution by a destination server;

receiving and decoding supplementary service information for said supplementary communications service being requested; and

selecting which of said one or more servers will execute said communications services.